

Mixed Martial Arts Now Legal in Michigan

Mixed Martial Arts, a popular and growing spectator sport, has been approved by the Michigan legislature and was signed by the governor last week (Public Acts 196 and 197). It is viewed as an economic tool for the state to generate revenue from fans who will travel to Michigan to see their favorite fighters perform.

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth will be responsible to oversee the professional fights that come into the state. By keeping licensing and regulation fees low, the supporters, including the Ultimate Fighting Championship or UFC, believe that Michigan will be a desired location for professional fights, and bring much needed revenue into the state.

Opponents of the new legislation believe that it is a violent sport, and should not be allowed here. New Jersey rules have been adopted by reference in the legislation, and may be revised to meet Michigan needs. The supporters argue that well-regulated events under New Jersey rules or similar rules are actually safer than professional boxing matches.